

2015 Parent Survey

Parent Survey

In addition to the surveys conducted with individuals having first-hand online test administration experience, an online survey to obtain important input from parents of students who took the M-STEP was also conducted. This survey was designed to obtain parent input on M-STEP local and state communication tools and activities.

The two-week parent survey was launched on June 4, 2015 and closed June 19, 2015. The online survey was completed by a total of 5,794 parents.

Survey questions focused on:

- Where and when parents obtained M-STEP information and its usefulness
- Parent knowledge and students' home usage of M-STEP online practice tools
- The ease and usefulness of the MDE and M-STEP web pages
- Parent suggestions to improve communications about state assessments

Parent survey participation also tended to be higher among those with students in grades 3-6.

3rd grade: 26.8%	4th grade: 22.3%	5th grade: 21.4%	6th grade: 20.9%
7th grade: 17.7%	8th grade: 17.6%	11th grade: 12.5%	No grade identified 1%

Key Findings

M-STEP Information

- Over 64 percent of parents said they received information on the new M-STEP assessment prior to their children taking the test.
 - However, over one-in-four parents surveyed said they did not receive or remember receiving information on M-STEP from any source prior to test administration and expressed a desire to receive this type of information.
 - More parents of elementary and middle school students received information (61-70%); 53 percent of parents of high school students received information.
- More parents obtained information from their local school and district than from any other source.
 - Of the parents who said they received school/district information, 68 percent found this information helpful. However the depth, value and usefulness varied.
- Other major sources of information included Michigan Department of Education web site, online searches, and print and broadcast media coverage.
 - Parents did not find this information from other sources as useful.

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Student Practice Tools

- Fewer than half of surveyed parents knew about practice tool opportunities for their students, ranging from 51 percent of parents of third graders to an average of 42 percent of parents of middle and high schools students.
- Of those parents who were aware of the online practice tool opportunity, more than 40 percent said their students practiced at home.
- Only one-out-of-five responding parents said their student(s) used the practice tools at home ranging from a high of 22 percent of fourth graders to 16 percent of juniors.

Use of MDE and M-STEP Web Sites

- Fewer than 40 percent of parents responded to this question. Those who responded said they visited the M-STEP page more than the MDE Assessment page.
- These parents were asked how easy it was to find information on these sites:
 - Two-thirds said “easy” or “were neutral”.
 - However, 33 percent said it was “not easy” to find information.